

ANIMAL HEALTH INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNICIAN

DEFINITION

Under the general supervision of an assigned administrator, assists certificated staff in the animal health area by working with students individually or in groups, in the improvement of academic knowledge and technical skills; and does related work as required.

TYPICAL DUTIES

Prepares examination or treatment room including equipment and instruments for surgical procedures; prepares patient and medications using specialized knowledge; holds or restrains animals during procedures; and assists during surgical procedures, passing instruments and materials in accordance with oral instructions. Assists in a variety of animal health care duties, including injections, venipunctures, and wound dressings; performs, demonstrates and oversees the induction of intravenous and inhalation anesthesia; performs and demonstrates dental extractions; performs and demonstrates the suturing of skin wounds and the application of bandages and splints; and performs triage on injured or ill animals when DVM is off premises. Oversees maintenance of colony animals; completes routine laboratory tests and cares for and feeds laboratory animals; and examines carcasses to ensure compliance with health standards. Acts as liaison with USDA inspector, making sure that facilities meet USDA regulations.

Assists instructors in the subject areas of animal health technology by tutoring students individually and in groups in concept understanding and skill acquisition; assembles instructional materials according to instructors' guidelines; proctors exams; grades, records and files test results in accordance with specific instructions; sets up and operates audiovisual equipment; trains students in the use of instructional equipment and appropriate learning methods and procedures; and stimulates class discussions. Assists students with research; advises students on academic and vocational curricula; directs student workers as needed, including scheduling and assigning tutors; and participates in labs to guide students through procedures. Maintains records and files of instructional materials and equipment; maintains accounting records against department budget; operates and maintains radiographic equipment; assists professional personnel with research projects in commercial, public health, or research laboratories; and oversees safety (OSHA) requirements for VT personnel and students. Orders supplies directly from vendors; works with vendors regarding equipment repair; compiles bibliographies of specialized materials for outside reading assignments; and serves on committees as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS

EXPERIENCE

One year of experience in a licensed veterinary clinic, or as a tutor, or instructional assistant in a veterinary clinic, or other work experience related to animal health technology.

EDUCATION

Graduate of an AVMA accredited two-year Animal Health Program and successful completion of state exams leading to certification as a California Certified Animal Health Technician.

KNOWLEDGE OF

Knowledge of basic animal physiology; appropriate medicines and dosages for a variety of species; the information and techniques needed to diagnose and treat injuries, diseases, and deformities; and of living tissue, cells, organisms, and entities, including their functions, interdependencies, and interactions with each other and the environment. Knowledge of basic record keeping procedures; elements of correct English usage, spelling, vocabulary, and arithmetic; tutoring techniques and procedures; and legal responsibilities for maintaining medical records; and USDA and OSHA regulations.

SKILLS IN

Skill in adjusting actions in relation to others' actions; assessing how well one is doing when learning or doing something; talking to others to effectively convey information; training others in how to do something; understanding written sentences and paragraphs in work related documents; and communicating effectively with others in writing as indicated by the needs of the audience. Skill in using scientific methods to solve problems; and determining the kind of tools and equipment needed to do a job. Skill in finding ways to structure or classify multiple pieces of information; knowing how to find information and identifying essential information; listening to what other people are saying and asking questions as appropriate; observing and evaluating the outcomes of a problem solution to identify lessons learned or redirect efforts; using multiple approaches when learning or tutoring; and working with new material or information to grasp its implications.

ABILITY TO (ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS)

The ability to perform the basic functions of the position; sustain regular work attendance; work cooperatively and effectively with the public, students, faculty and staff; exercise initiative and mature judgment; work as a member of a team; and meet schedules and time lines. The ability to organize materials and set up laboratories in animal health technology; apply splints and bandages; follow oral and written directions; induce intravenous and inhalation anesthesia; operate laboratory equipment used in animal health courses; perform dental extractions; and suture skin wounds. The ability to read and write at the level required for successful job performance; listen to and understand information and ideas presented through spoken words and sentences; to speak clearly and effectively; and recognize when something is wrong or is likely to go wrong. The ability to tutor students in animal health courses; quickly make coordinated movements of one hand, a hand together with its arm, or two hands to grasp, manipulate, or assemble objects; see details of objects at a close range; and make precisely coordinated movements of the fingers of one or both hands.

TYPICAL EQUIPMENT USED (May include, but not limited to)

Computers; radiographic, anesthesia, clinical, and pathology equipment; surgical instruments; and audiovisual equipment.